
Title: Court of Truth

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The Court of Truth.
Hallowed bastion of
Justice, walls firm
against Falsehood, bars
and chains keeping
Wrong in its place! At
least, so those who
preside here wish it to
seem. But judges and
prosecutors and
bailiffs alike are people
just as you or I, and as
for we their minds and
mouths are woven with
weaknesses and selfish
interests. So long as
their hands hold the keys
in this place it is a Court
not of Truth but of people.

As all courts are, of
course, there is no other
way for them to be. A
gathering where gossip
decides cold shoulders
for a difficult member of
the community, is a
court! And its
proceedings are muddled
and mutable as all courts
are.
But a concerned sewing
circle does not crown
itself with a Principle,
does not insist on the
association whenever it
is named. A court must
be distrusted, must be
examined, so its
decisions can be made
good ones, but how could
one
distrust a 'Court of Truth',
how could one look at its
officers and see their
frailties and missteps?

That demands a leap that
common folk do not have
time to make as they
tend their fields and hawk
their wares. And so
those who know well
whose
opinions in their village
can be trusted and
whose cannot do not
apply this same
examination to the
officers within these
walls. Perhaps this is an
accident born of our
Britannian traditions,
perhaps it is by
design so those who
ought be most examined
escape our eyes, but the
result is the same: rot
finds fetid home within
the Court.

How many times have
the starving stood before
the court on trial, when
the true crime was their
desperate state? How
many times have the
mad been condemned to
these cells when their
violence is not crime but
symptom of their
sickness? Who can
forget the trial of Ricardo
in the wake of the
Ophidian
invasion, the stepping
stone in Casca the
Tyrant's ascent to steal
the Throne?

I do not write these
words to scoff at Virtue
or Principle, but at an
institution which shields
itself from due
examination using them.
I speak only in warning:
in this Court, Truth is not
guiding Principle but
merely a word, and it
behooves all of us to
watch its proceedings
with distrust rather than
blindly following its
charge.

